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Mr. C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—" May I know if the auditor has surcharged this Venugopal Pillai when he was chairman, and did not the Minister know it before the nomination was made ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" I am not aware of that, Sir."

*Action taken on the allegations against Mr. P. Venugopala Pillai, ex-Chairman of the Chidambaram Municipal Council.*

*1131-B Q.—Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government were aware at the time of nominating Mr. P. Venugopala Pillai, ex-Chairman, a municipal councillor, in November 1928, that the Government ordered in October or November 1925 his prosecution for misappropriation or breach of trust and that the same was withdrawn a year later when he stood as a candidate for election to the Legislative Council ;

(b) the nature and particulars of the charges including the amounts involved, in respect of which his prosecution was ordered ;

(c) what action was taken by Government on the allegations made against him by certain municipal councillors in May 1927 and referred to in the answer to clause (b) of question No. 1200 answered on 5th November 1927 ; and

(d) whether the Government have received the explanation called for from him in respect of those allegations and if so, what it is ; and what are the orders of Government thereon ?

A.—(a) Yes. As will be seen from the reply to question No. 1131-A, Mr. Venugopala Pillai was recently nominated as a member of the Chidambaram Municipal Council for very special reasons.

(b) As the order was subsequently withdrawn no useful purpose will be served by furnishing these particulars.

(c) & (d) A copy of the Government Order[a] in the case (G.O. No. 3337, L. & M., dated 30th August 1927) is placed on the table.

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—" With reference to the statement found in appendix that the examiner is requested to investigate the matter and in view of G.O. No. 3337, dated 30th August 1927, may I ask the hon. the Minister to state whether since that date the examiner did investigate the matter and did submit his report to the Government ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" I want notice."

*Nomination of Mr. Venugopala Pillai to the Chidambaram Municipal Council.*

*1131-C .Q.—Mr. C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Mr. Venugopala Pillai, the outgoing Chairman of Chidambaram Municipality, was nominated by the Government as member of Chidambaram Municipal Council ;

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a Printed as Appendix X on pages 303-304 infra.

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(b) whether the Government are aware that Mr. Venugopala Pillai was defeated, prior to his nomination, successively in three wards of the municipality in open election;

(c) whether it is a fact that the rate-payers of the municipality have sent memorials to the Government protesting against the administration of Mr. Venugopala Pillai as Chairman;

(d) whether the Government will place on the Council table all the communications addressed to the Government, by the rate-payers, against the administration, by Mr. Venugopala Pillai, of the Chidambaram Municipality, with a statement as to the action taken by them thereon;

(e) the reasons for the nomination of Mr. Venugopala Pillai as member of Chidambaram Municipality;

(f) whether the Government have since received a memorial from the rate-payers of the Chidambaram Municipality protesting against the nomination of Mr. Venugopala Pillai as a member of the municipality;

(g) if the answer to (f) be in the affirmative, the action the Government propose to take in the matter;

(h) whether any representation had been made to him by the rate-payers, prior to the nomination, and whether he had given any assurance that he would not nominate Mr. Venugopala Pillai as member;

(i) whether there are, in the municipality, other members of the community to which Mr. Venugopala Pillai belongs, and if so, how many; and

(j) whether the nomination of Mr. Venugopala Pillai was meant to satisfy the representation of any minority or depressed community?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) In a petition to Government from the rate-payers of the Chidambaram Municipality received after the nomination of Mr. Venugopala Pillai it was stated that he was defeated in three elections.

(c) & (d) No memorial was received from the rate-payers of the municipality protesting against the administration of Mr. Venugopala Pillai.

(e), (i) & (j) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer to clauses (a) and (b) of Legislative Council question No. 1331-A.

(f) & (g) Attention is invited to the answer to clause (b) above. The Government do not propose to take any action in the matter.

(h) No.

Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliyar :—" May I know from the hon. the Minister if a deputation of Chidambaram people waited on the present Chief Minister protesting against the administration of Mr. Venugopal Pillai and asking for his intervention in the matter?"

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—" Deputations representing both sides have waited upon me."

Mr C N. Muthuranga Mudaliyar :—" I ask specifically whether the particular deputation protesting against the administration of this Mr. Venugopal Pillai waited upon the Minister?"

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—" I have already answered that. I stated that there were deputations from both sides."